

Welcome to St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lancaster

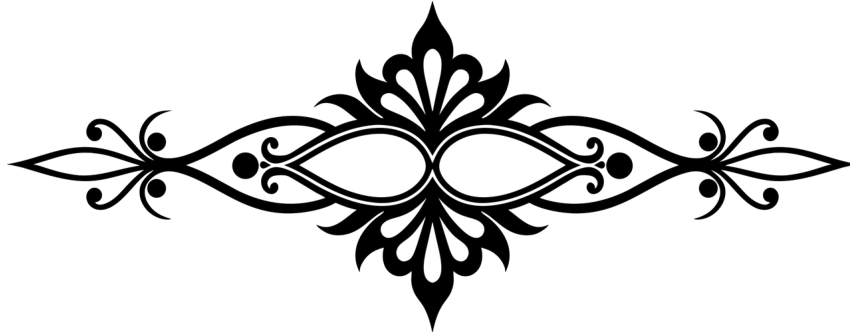


Sunday Worship

Rev. Jamie Retallack
716-848-9683

First Sunday in Lent
March 9, 2025

The Prelude
The Greetings



Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance
of God's abiding love. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate One, you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.

Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In + Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever. **Amen.**

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -
 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -



last - ing arms; what a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine,
 last - ing arms; oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
 last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Lord so near,



lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
 lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
 lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

Refrain

Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

The Prayer of the Day

Let us pray...O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading
Deuteronomy 26:1-11

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, “Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.” When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: “A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.” You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Read responsively

You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,

**You will say to the Lord,
“My refuge and my fortress;
my God, in whom I trust.”**

Because you have made the Lord your refuge,
the Most High your dwelling place,

**no evil shall befall you,
no scourge come near your dwelling.**

For God will command the angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.

**On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.**

You will tread on the lion and the adder,
the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.

**Those who love me, I will deliver;
I will protect those who know my name.**

When they call to me, I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble,
I will rescue them and honor them.

**With long life I will satisfy them,
and show them my salvation.**

Second Reading
Romans 10:8b-13

“The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart”

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



Lenten Gospel Acclamation



☩ Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra-cious and mer-ci-ful,



slow to an - ger, and a-bound-ing in stead - fast love.

The Gospel

Luke 4:1-13

Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'" Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered him, "It is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’”

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,
to protect you,’

and

‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

The Sermon
Rev. Jamie Retallack



Hymn of the Day

ACS 922

When We Are Tested



1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,
2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,
3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,
4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,
plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,
trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,
sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,
lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,
teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,
Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.
trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.
seek - ing your will in the work that we do.
an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

Reprinted with permission under One License #A-740145. All rights reserved.

Text © 1996 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

Baptism of Augustine James Lotocki



God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Sponsors present the candidate:

I present Augustine James Lotocki for baptism.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child baptized into Christ?

Parents: We do.

As you bring your child to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with them among God's faithful people, bring them to the word of God and the holy supper, teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in their hands the holy scriptures, and nurture them in faith and prayer, so that they may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. Do you promise to help your child grow in the Christian faith and life?

Parents: We do.

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture *Augustine* in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help this child live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Sponsors: We do.

People of God, do you promise to support *Augustine* and pray for this child in their new life in Christ?

Congregation: We do.

Affirmation of Faith

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church:

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God? **Congregation: We renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Let us pray:

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

Congregation may be seated.



Augustine James, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let us pray:

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain *Augustine* with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

Augustine James, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Let us welcome the newly baptized:

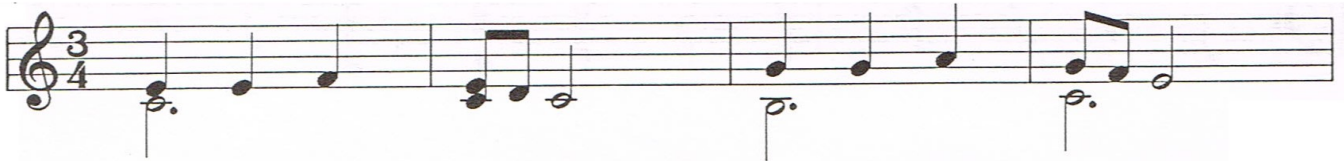
We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

The Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

The Offertory Hymn



1. Meek - ness and maj - es - ty, man - hood and De - i - ty,
 2. Fa - ther's pure ra - di - ance, per - fect in in - no - cence;
 3. Wis - dom un - search - a - ble, God, the in - vis - i - ble;



in per - fect har - mo - ny, the Man who is — God.
 Yet learns o - be - di - ence to death on a — cross.
 Love in - de - struct - i - ble in frail - ty ap - pears.



Lord of e - ter - ni - ty, dwells in hu - man - i - ty;
 Suf - f'ring to give us life, con - quering through sac - ri - fice;
 Lord of in - fin - i - ty, stoop - ing so ten - der - ly;



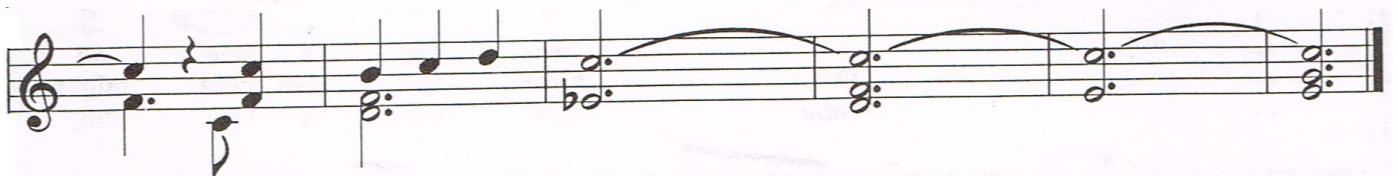
Kneels in hu - mil - i - ty — and — wash - es our feet.
 And as they cru - ci - fy — prays, — "Fa - ther, for - give."
 Lifts our hu - man - i - ty — to the heights of His throne.



O what a mys - ter - y, meek - ness and maj - es - ty; _____



_____ Bow down and wor - ship, _____



_____ for this is your God. _____

The Offertory Prayer

Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**



The Prayers of the Church

God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Prayers of Intercession

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

Surprising God, you call us to love our enemies and to show kindness in the face of cruelty. Let our actions be a shining witness of your overwhelming grace for all. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

As animals hibernate and fields lay dormant, let them be a reminder that life and faith are not static but always changing and growing. May we, with all creation, trust that the ending of one thing promises life in a new way. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We pray for leaders and policymakers who work to reduce violence in our nations, cities, and towns. Give your wisdom and discernment amid heated arguments and differing viewpoints. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We pray for the victims of abuse and violence. Provide safe shelter and new beginnings to those experiencing domestic violence and dangerous situations. Enfold with love all who seek your healing care (especially Edna Mann, Tom & Ruth Morse, Jackie Wolfram, Bruce Jacobs, Dave, Jay, Heather, Denise Krueger, Lee Babirad, Sara Hermsmeyer, Eoin Mast, Arno Konstabel, Susan Wilson, Lisa J, Donna, Carol A, Dee, Linda Dean, Andrea, Cindy, Joshua, Scott, Pastor Tim, Michael, Pat, and Kevin). God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Empower our faith communities to be signs of your gracious love. Bless the local ministries of parish nursing and caregiving, that they will be a voice for those in need in our communities (other ministries may be named). God of grace, hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for the enduring witness of those who have died before us (especially Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna). May their lives in you provide a witness of your everlasting grace. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.**

The Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



The Sanctus

♩ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took the bread, and after giving thanks He broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, poured out for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Invitation

The Lamb of God



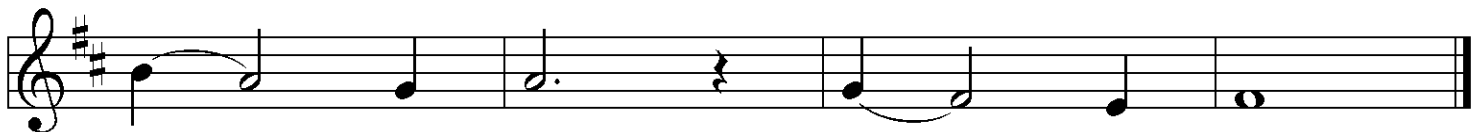
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Music
LBW 212, WOV 709

The Communion Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

*Lord remember us in your kingdom
and teach us to pray...*

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory;
forever and ever. Amen.**

The Sending Prayer

Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Benediction

Bless Now, O God, the Journey

1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
 2 Bless so - journ - ers and pil - grims who share this wind - ing way;
 3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.



the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
 your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus - tains the day.
 We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,



The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun - tain round,
 We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;
 but wait - ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.



then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
 to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
 Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: LLANGLOFFAN, Welsh tune, 19th cent.

Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com

800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Reprinted with permission under One License #A-740145. All rights reserved.



The Sending
 Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you
Thanks be to God.

The People of St. John's Welcome You for Worship Today!

This Week at a Glance

Sunday	3/9	9am	Bible Study
Sunday	3/9	9:30am	Joysingers
Sunday	3/9	10:00am	Worship/Baptism/Lent 1 Sunday School
Sunday	3/9	11am	Confirmation Class Worship & Music Committee
Sunday	3/9	11:30am	Property & Grounds Committee
Monday	3/10	4:00pm	Guiding Eyes
Monday	3/10	7:30pm	Queen City Chordsmen
Tuesday	3/11	9:30am	Quilters
Tuesday	3/11	7pm	NA Meeting
Wednesday	3/12	12pm	Women's Lunch
Wednesday	3/12	7pm	Garden Club
Wednesday	3/12	7:30pm	LYMA Meeting
Thursday	3/13	1pm	Bible Study
Thursday	3/13	6:30pm	Handbell Practice
Thursday	3/13	7:30pm	Choir Practice
Saturday	3/15	5:30pm	Worship
Sunday	3/16	9:00am	Bible Study
Sunday	3/16	9:30am	Joysingers
Sunday	3/16	10:00am	Sunday School Worship
Sunday	3/16	11am	Coffee Hour
Sunday	3/16	11am	St Patty's Day Meal

From all of St. John's: Baptismal Blessings for Augustine Lotocki; and welcome to the parents, Peter and Elaina; & to the sponsors & all friends and family with us today.

We pray for: Edna Mann, Tom & Ruth Morse, Jackie Wolfram, Bruce Jacobs, Dave, Jay, Heather, Denise Krueger, Lee Babirad, Sara Hermsmeyer, Eoin Mast, Arno Konstabel, Pat, Kevin, and Nubia Schneider.

St John's Elma & Lancaster Women's Lunch is March 12 @ noon @ Olive Tree. Sign up or call Bev Hess @ 716-868-5096 by Sun, March 9.

St Patty's Meal sponsored by LYMA is March 16th from 11am until sold out. The meal of corned beef, cabbage, veggies, and bread & butter is \$5. There are only 100 meals, and you must purchase a ticket. The meal is take-out only. Contact Gary Rudz for tickets 716-829-9618.

YOUTH: Lock-in Event. Mar 22 @ 7pm -Mar 23 @ 9am @ St John's Lancaster: Activities planned: Use new game room on 3rd floor, make your own pizza, and devos. Bring a friend, sleep gear and overnight items. Breakfast and snacks provided. Morning clean-up begins @ 8am.

QR Code for Offering

Using your camera app you can scan the QR code to go to **St. John's donation page** where you can make a one-time or recurring **offering!** Thank you for giving!



Offering: 3/2/25 : \$3192.00

Grape juice & gluten free wafers are available for **Communion**

Confirmation Classes March 9 & 23

Altar Flower Dates Available:

3/16, 3/23, 3/30 - \$30 for two bouquets

If you would like a **pastoral visit** for any reason, please call the office or call Pastor directly on his cell @ (716) 848-9683.

BOOK CLUB: Please join us in the Fellowship Hall (using the ramp entrance) on Wednesday, March 19th at 2:30 PM to discuss the novel, Small Things Like These, by Claire Keegan. (Note the day and time changes)

Follow us on Facebook @stjohnslancaster

JANUARY 2025

Offering/Giving envelopes / Loose Income

\$2,584.00 amount needed each Sunday

4 Sundays thru JANUARY '25 =	\$10,336.00
actual thru JANUARY 2025 =	\$8,968.57
difference	-\$1,367.43

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

Text: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1839–1929

Music: SHOWALTER, Anthony J. Showalter, 1858–1924

LENTEN/EASTER SCHEDULE

ASH WEDNESDAY~ MARCH 5TH

Worship @ 7pm @ St. John's Elma
2131 Woodard Rd, Elma NY 14059

PALM SUNDAY ~ APRIL 13TH

Pancake Breakfast @ 8am-10am

Worship @10am

Easter Egg Hunt @ 11am

MAUNDY THURS ~ APRIL 17TH

Worship @ 7pm @ St. John's Lancaster

GOOD FRIDAY ~ APRIL 18TH

Worship @ 7pm @ St. John's Elma
2131 Woodard Rd, Elma NY 14059

EASTER VIGIL ~ SAT APRIL 19TH

Worship @ 5:30pm

RESURRECTION SUNDAY ~ APRIL 20TH

Worship @ 10am



ST. PATTY'S DAY DINNER

**@ St. John's Lancaster: 55 Pleasant Ave.
Corned Beef/Cabbage/Vegetables/Bread & Butter**

Sunday, March 16th @ 11am

\$5 Dinner Reserve - Takeout Only

**Must Have Ticket! Limited to 100 Tickets
Sales end March 15th or Sold Out**

Contact: Gary Rudz — 716-829-9618



MISSION STATEMENT

*St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church provides
an inviting environment for spreading God's Word
through worship, teaching, and fellowship to address
the spiritual needs of our congregation and community.
Open - Inviting - Alive in Christ!*

Pastor Rev. Jamie Retallack (716-848-9683)

Pastors Emeriti -Rev. John Swanson -Rev. John Scarafia

Vicar Teresa J. O'Connor

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

55 Pleasant Avenue, Lancaster, NY 14086

Office 683-8972 (Mon.—Thurs. 10am-3pm)

www.stjohnslanc.org

stjohnslancaster55@gmail.com

Congregation Council

Janet Sincebaugh (President)

Carol Graham (Vice-President)

Karen McClintock (Secretary)

Kathryn Snyder (Treasurer)

Pauline Bauer

Jeff Miller

Sam Gierlinger

Rich Rice

RaeAnn Jakubowski

Paul Rudz

Jamie Kloc

Kelly Sieracki

Marjorie Kruger

Printed/projected materials used in this bulletin are included by permission of licenses:
Worship elements: From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All
rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License
#SAS000634 and Music: One License #A-740145. All rights reserved.

Bible Passages unless otherwise noted: New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition
(NRSVUE) Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States
of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.